

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 712

TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2024

**FUNDS ALLOTTED TO ASSAM AND MAHARASHTRA UNDER VARIOUS
SCHEMES OF THE MINISTRY**

712 SHRI KAMAKHYA PRASAD TASA:

DR. ANIL SUKHDEORAO BONDE:

**Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to
state:**

- (a) whether the funds allotted to the States of Assam and Maharashtra under various schemes of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting during the period 2019-20 to 2023-24 is higher as compared to the recent past;**
- (b) if so, the allotment of funds thereof annually from 2019-20 to 2023-24;**
- (c) whether the Central Government has approved any special projects in Information and Broadcasting for the States of Assam and Maharashtra from 2019 to 2024; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof during the period 2019-2024, annually?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR):

(a) and (b): There are no Centrally Sponsored Schemes under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. The Ministry implements four Central Sector Schemes. These schemes of the Ministry aim at mass communication and information dissemination of the policies and programmes of the Government as well as entertainment and education. Funds are not allotted to the schemes statewise, however the benefits of these schemes/programmes/activities uniformly flow to the entire population of the country, including the states of Assam and Maharashtra.

In Information Sector, Development Communication & Information Dissemination (DCID) Scheme aims at ensuring peoples' participation in various plans programmes of the Government, for their welfare, promoting national integration and ensuring nation building. This is done through the launch of integrated development communication campaigns using media vehicles like print advertisement, audio-visual publicity, outdoor publicity, distribution of informative brochures/flyers, inter-personal communication during exhibitions and new media vehicles for effective and targeted reach.

In Film Sector, Development Communication & Dissemination of Filmic Content (DCDFC) Scheme aims to promote Indian Cinema through film festivals, film markets, production of films and digitization and preservation of archival films through National Film Heritage Mission.

The scheme aims to synergize activities of various media units in participation in and organization of international film festivals in India and abroad for showcasing Indian cinema to a large and versatile audience.

In Broadcasting Sector, Broadcasting Infrastructure Network Development (BIND) scheme aims to strengthen broadcasting infrastructure and content of Doordarshan and All India Radio (AIR) from time to time. This will enable the public broadcaster to meet the expenditure requirement towards the augmentation and replacement of transmitters, satellite broadcast equipment and digitization, expansion of TV Channels, FM expansion with special emphasis on strengthening of coverage in sensitive areas especially those in border and LWE areas.

Doordarshan covers the entire state of Maharashtra with 1 Doordarshan Kendra at Mumbai and 1 PGF Centre at Pune and Nagpur respectively. Akashvani also covers the entire state with 08 number of MW Transmitter and 37 FM Transmitter of different Power.

Doordarshan covers the entire state of Assam with 1 Doordarshan Kendra at Guwahati and 1 PGF Centre at Dibrugarh and Silchar respectively. Akashvani also covers the entire state with 07 number of MW Transmitter and 23 FM Transmitter of different Power.

In addition to the above stations, Doordarshan is operating DD DTH Service “DD free Dish” from Earth Station Todapur, Delhi.

Rs. 25.93 crores and Rs. 11.69 crores have been spent on modernization of infrastructure of Akashvani and Doordarshan in the states of Maharashtra and Assam respectively from 2019-20 to 2023-24 under BIND scheme.

Likewise, Supporting Community Radio Movement Scheme under Broadcasting Sector aims to strengthen both new and existing CR Stations with resources, capacity and technology, thereby increasing number and effectiveness of operational CRS, which are critically required to Community Radio Sector. The Scheme “Supporting Community Radio Movement in India” provides financial assistance, in the form of grants, which are released to the eligible existing and new Community Radio Stations for building up infrastructure. Funds are used for organizing Community Radio Awareness workshops at various places in India, where the community radio penetration is limited.

There are 51 Community Radio Stations in the state of Maharashtra and 5 Community Radio Stations in the state of Assam at present.

(c) and (d): Yes. The Government of India approved the construction of Western Regional Centre of IIMC (Indian Institute of Mass Communication) at Amravati, Maharashtra and a total expenditure of Rs. 2.26 crores has been incurred in the calendar year 2023 for its construction.
